

consistent coarse fibrous stock into an effective area of a mallet roll having circulating mallets extending from a rotating shaft which cooperate with fixed peripheral impact sections, thereby breaking up the highly consistent coarse fibrous stock passing between the mallets and fixed peripheral impact sections;

transporting the loosened and distributed highly consistent fibrous paper stock into a dispersing machine;

dispersing the transported loosened and distributed highly consistent fibrous paper stock in the dispersing machine.

3. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:
introducing steam into the highly consistent fibrous stock while it is located between the dispersing fittings, whereby the highly consistent fibrous stock is heated.

4. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 3, wherein the dispersing fittings include a primary dispersing area and a ring shaped heating zone arranged radially inside of the primary dispersing area, and said process comprises:

introducing the steam into the ring shaped heating zone.

7. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 6, wherein a transport direction in the worm extruder is essentially horizontal and an axis of the rotating shaft of the mallet roll is essentially horizontal and substantially perpendicular to the worm extruder transport direction.

14. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 1, further comprising heating the highly consistent fibrous stock while it is located between dispersing fittings of the dispersing machine.

15. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 14, further comprising introducing steam between the dispersing fittings and into the highly consistent fibrous stock.

16. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 14, wherein the dispersing fittings include a primary dispersing area and a ring shaped heating zone arranged radially inside of the primary dispersing area, and said process comprises:

introducing the steam into the ring shaped heating zone to heat the highly consistent fibrous stock.

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 14 - 16 will have been amended and claims 17 - 28, directed to the non-elected invention, will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants will have expressly reserved the right to refile the subject matter of these canceled claims in one or more divisional applications. Accordingly, claims 1 - 16 are currently pending.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has made final the restriction requirement and, therefore, withdrawn claims 17 - 28, directed to the non-elected invention, from